1807 1814 the peninsular WAR

Commemorations of the Bicentenary of the Lines of Torres Vedras

exhibition

Museu Municipal Leonel Trindade
Torres Vedras

organização

Torres Vedras Câmara Municipal

museu municipal LEONEL TRINDADE

200 1811-2011 Linhas de Torres Vedras

alto patrocinio

Presidência da República

apoio

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ALARCOM

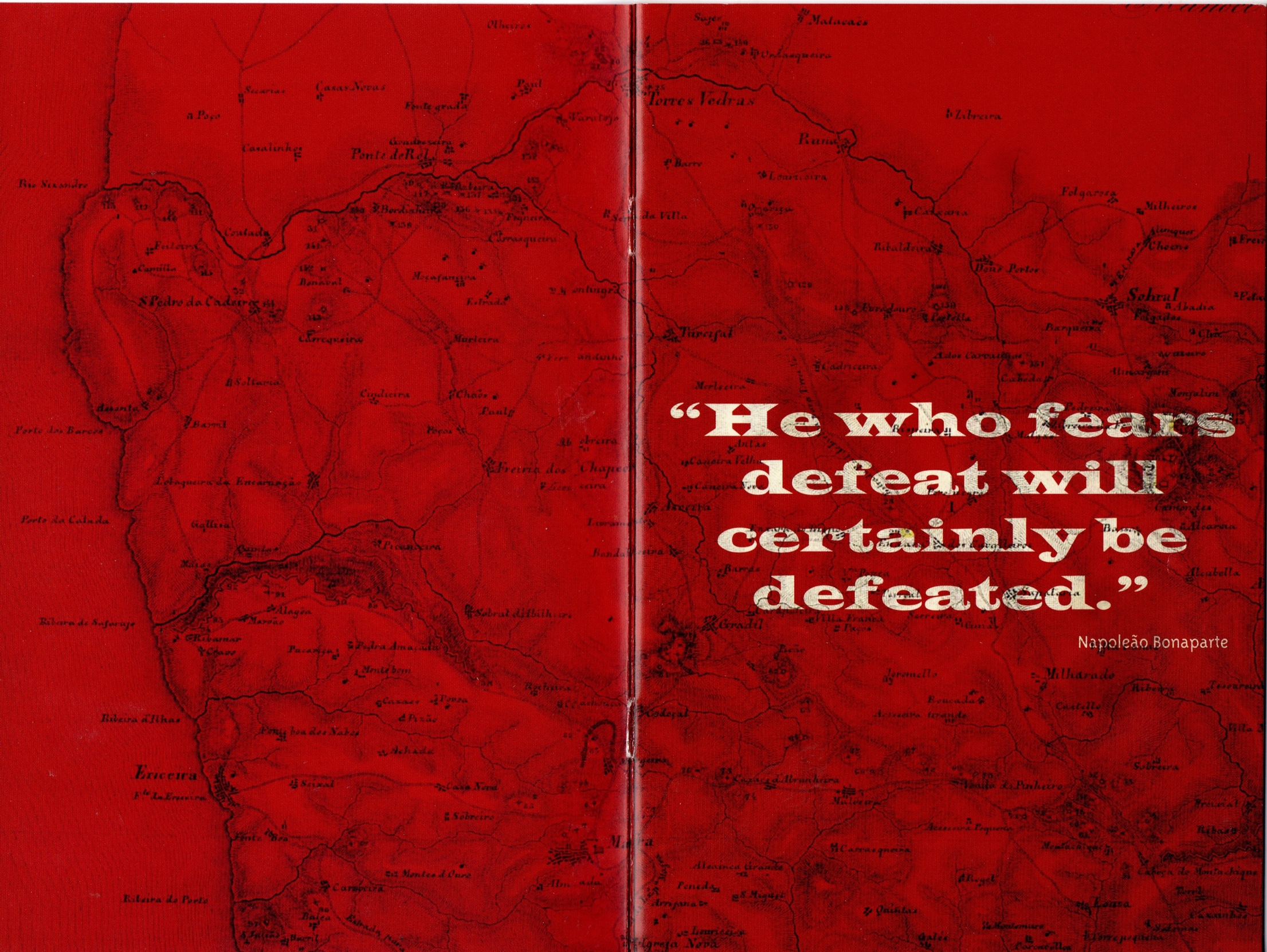
TURISMO DE PORTUGAL

co-financiamento

eea grants
iceland liechtenstein norway

parceria

Ayuntamiento Ciudad Rodrigo



“He who fears defeat will certainly be defeated.”

Napoleão Bonaparte

Offered as part of the Commemorations of the Bi-centenary of the Lines of Torres Vedras (1810-2010), the exhibition **"The Peninsular War 1807-1814"** is organised over three Exhibition Rooms.

room 1

They will not pass! The importance of the lines of Torres Vedras in the defence of Lisbon.

room 2

The french invasions: words and pictures.

room 3

From Ciudad Rodrigo to Torres Vedras: a journey by way of contemporary engravings.

Looking at History with new eyes, we (re)visit the Peninsular War, as well as its impact on the nation, going beyond a strictly war-based interpretation of the events so as to understand it in the context of "changing socio-political paradigm.

CHRONOLOGY

1789 The French Revolution

1799 Coup d'État of 18 Brumaire (9 November)

1801 War of the Oranges

1804 Napoleon crowns himself Emperor of France

1805 Battle of Trafalgar

1806 Continental Blockade

1807 The Royal Family sail into exile in Brazil

1807-1808 First French Invasion

1808 The 2nd May uprisings in Madrid

1809 Second French Invasion

1809 Construction of the defensive Lines of Torres Vedras begins

1810-1811 The Third French Invasion

1812 The Russian Campaign

1814 Battle of Toulouse

1814 Napoleon abdicates. Exile in Elba

1815 The government of '100 days'

1815 Battle of Waterloo

1815 Exile in St Helena

1821 Death of Napoleon

ROOM 1

THEY WILL NOT PASS!

The importance of the Lines of Torres Vedras in the defence of Lisbon

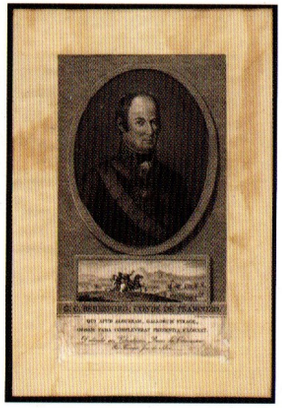
Location | Permanent Exhibition Room (Ground Floor)
November 2009 | November 2012

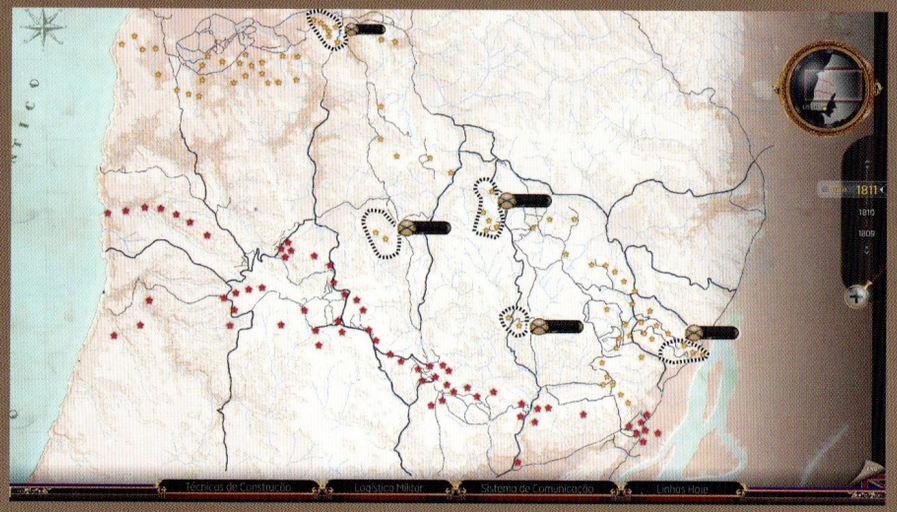
"Our major objective in Portugal is control of Lisbon and the Tagus, and all our efforts should be directed towards the achievement of this aim. There is one other, also related to the first objective, for which we must equally strive: the embarkation of British troops in the case of a reverse of fortunes."

Arthur Wellington, *Memorandum to Lieutenant Colonel Fletcher*, 20 October 1809

This permanent exhibition aims to cast a new eye over the Line of Torres Vedras, with special attention paid to the strategic thinking behind the defensive system: concept, techniques, construction and efficiency in halting the advance of the French army towards the capital.

Certain, often neglected, aspects, which have a particular relevance to a better understanding of the importance of the Lines of Torres Vedras in all its complexity, are featured. The role of the Commissariat in the mobilisation of the resources needed for the construction of the Lines and the impact on the local population are examined. Prominence has been given to the optical systems which were used to optimise the transmission of messages along the Lines. A reorganisation of the Portuguese Army occurred during the Peninsula Wars, giving special attention to the daily lives of the soldiers.





ROOM 2

THE FRENCH INVASIONS

Words and pictures

Location | Temporary Exhibition Room (Ground Floor)
November 2009 | November 2010

This temporary exhibition aims to show the impact of the occupation on the lives of the local people, at the same time as presenting a chronological 'trail' through the French Invasions.
It serves equally to recover memories and provide contemporary descriptions by means of audio recordings of extracts from books and correspondence, available at listening posts. There are also biographies of important characters, historical and local figures, witnesses of the uses they were put to and the hardships they suffered.
As an additional resource, excerpts from the television film "Chegaram os Franceses!" ("The French are Here!") are being shown. (RTP, 2007).

THE CONVENTION of CINTRA, a Portuguese Gambol for the Amusement of IOHN BULL.

That scoundrel Junot
Came to protect us!
Came, but it was to rob us
And steal our silver.

Junot and the Bloody One-Handed
Say that Portugal is theirs.
To the devil with them
And worse for him who sent them.

Even the sea is in turmoil.
And even the fleets of ships.
More nations are joining us,
Going to war against France.

Popular political song

ROOM 3

FROM CIUDAD RODRIGO TO TORRES VEDRAS

A journey in contemporary engravings

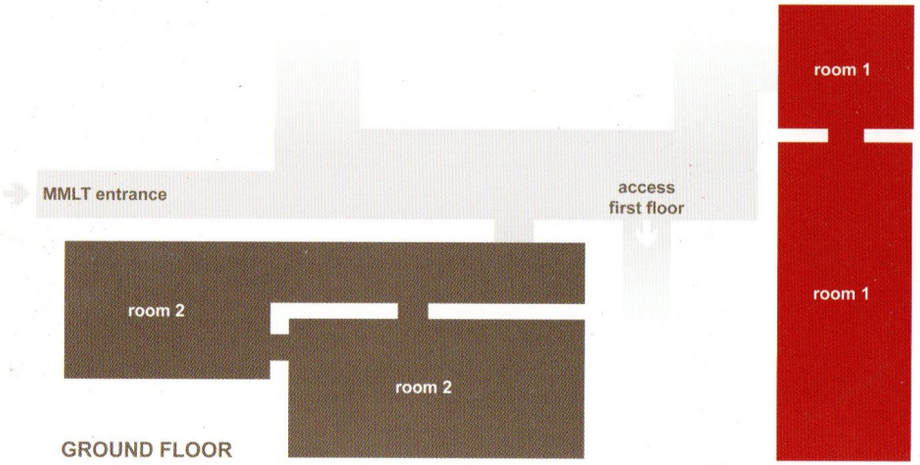
Location | Temporary Exhibition Room (First Floor)
November 2009 | February 2010

This exhibition, the greater part of which is made up of maps and engravings illustrating the battles of the Peninsular War, is a selection of pieces from the private collection of José Ramón Cid Cebrián, a native of Ciudad Rodrigo.

It was along these historical tracks that the destinies of Ciudad Rodrigo and Almeida became bound up with that of Torres Vedras, during the 3rd French Invasion. Resistance in these battlefield forts was key to the successful preparation of the Lines of Torres Vedras, which were, in their turn, vital for the defence of Lisbon and key to the failure of the French. Time gained there allowed work on the Lines to progress here.

Wellington believed that British success in the Peninsula depended on their ability to mobilise and defend Portugal. To execute his plan, he concentrated on his strategy for the defence of Lisbon by constructing a defensive system to the north of the capital, while reinforcing the frontiers so as to slow the march of the invading army.

The siege of Ciudad Rodrigo lasted for about a two months and a half, whereas the siege of Almeida stood for only 12 days. This time was enough to reinforce the Lines, thereby halting the advance of the French Army and eventually resulting in victory for the Anglo-Portuguese forces.



Museu Municipal Leonel Trindade

Opening times
Tuesday - Sunday
10 am -1 pm & 2 pm – 6 pm
Entrance free

Educational service
A range of activities complimenting the Exhibition, for juniors and adolescents, are being offered by the educational service of the Museu Municipal

Contacts
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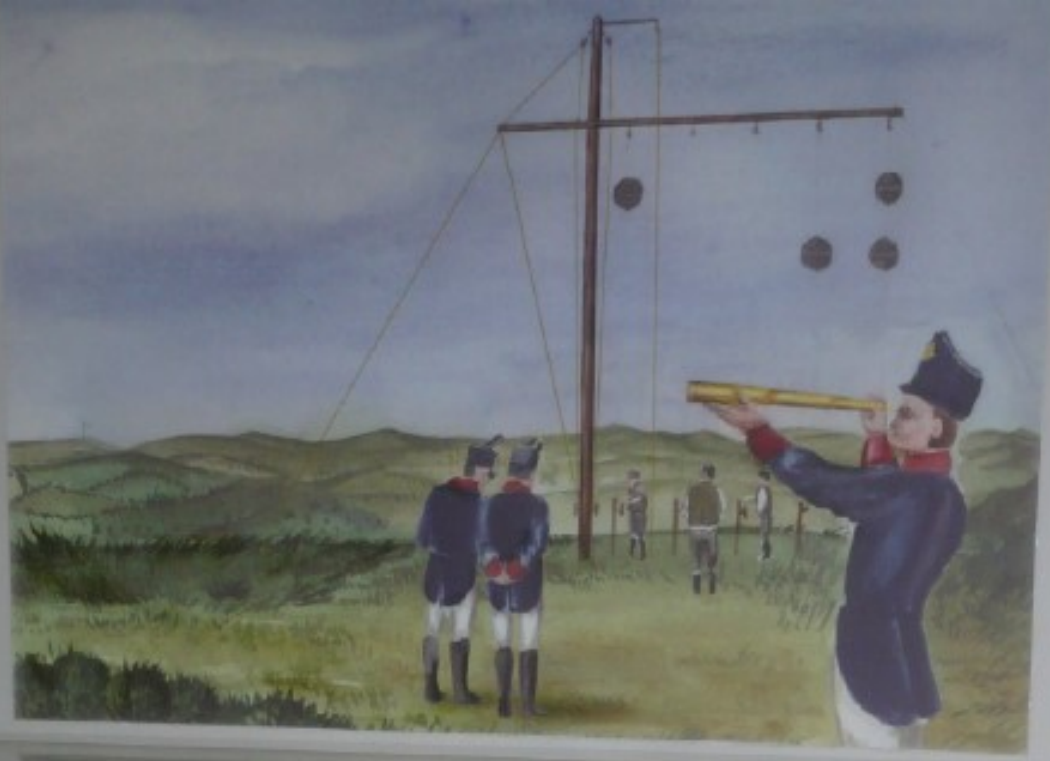
www.cm-tvedras.pt
www.linhasdetorresvedras.com

CAMPANHAS
DA
GUERRA PENINSULAR
BUÇACO
LINHAS DE TORRES

BUÇACO
27-IX-1810
LINHAS DE TORRES
12-X-1810 A 5-III-1811
Millennium

Museu Municipal Leonel Trindade, Torres Vedras, Portugal

Museu Municipal Leonel Trindade, Torres Vedras, Portugal



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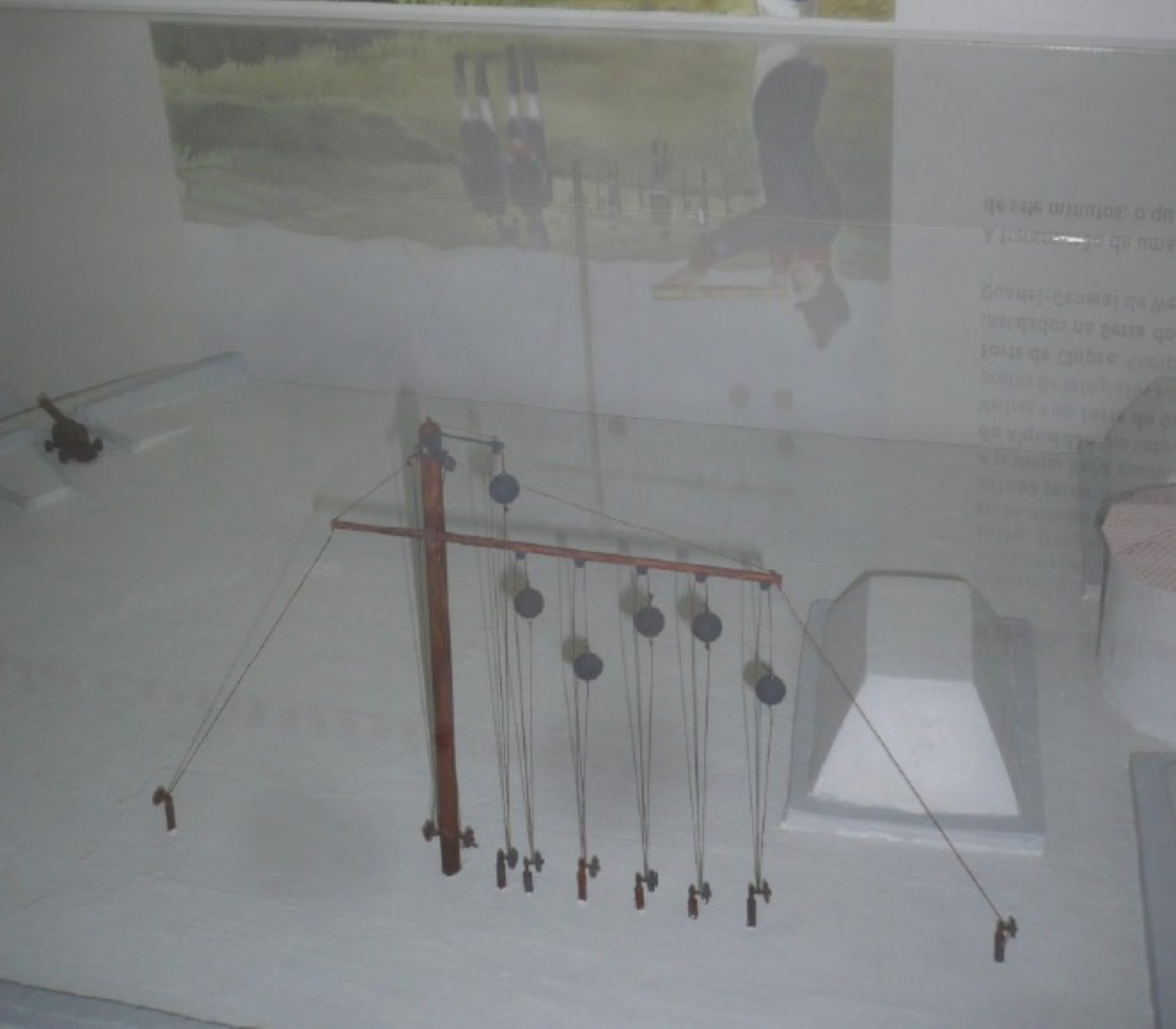

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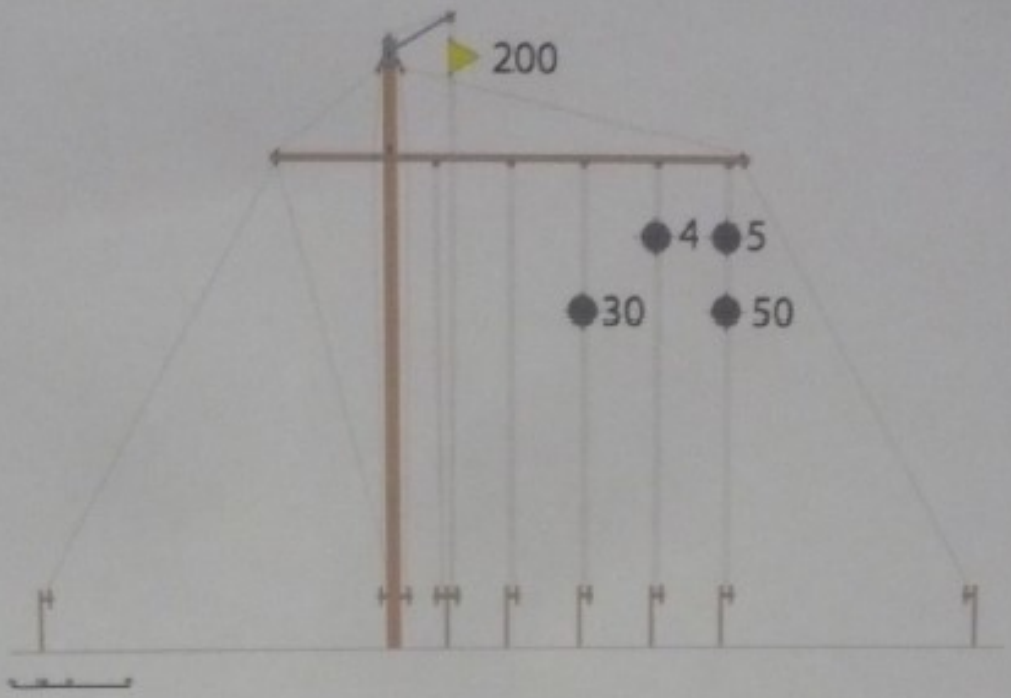
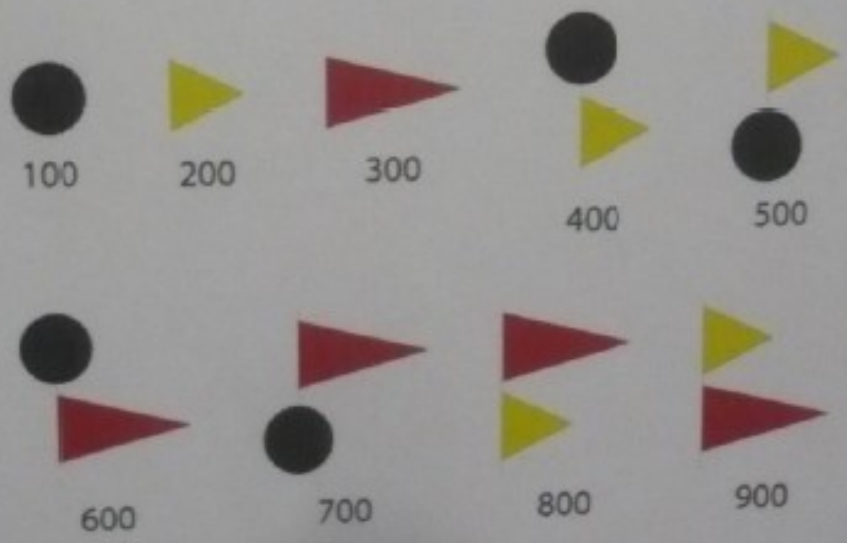


Exemplo de mensagem

200 + 4 + 5 + 30 + 50 = 289

289 = Combate



Telégrafo
Projecto: Rui Sá Leal | Desenho: José Pedro Machado / Câmara Municipal de Mafra

MARCAS NO PERCURSO
CAMINHO CERTO
PARA A DIREITA
CAMINHO ERRADO
PARA A ESQUERDA
CUIDADOS ESPECIAIS E NORMAS DE CONDUTA
_SEGUIR SOMENTE PELOS TRILHOS SINALIZADOS;
_EVITAR BARULHOS E ATITUDES QUE PERTURBEM A PAZ DO LOCAL;
_OBSERVAR A FAUNA À DISTÂNCIA, PREFERENCIALMENTE COM BINÓCULOS;
_NÃO DANIFICAR A FLORA;
_NÃO ABANDONAR O LIXO LEVANDO-O ATÉ UM LOCAL ONDE HAJA SERVIÇO DE RECOLHA;
_RESPEITAR A PROPRIEDADE PRIVADA;
_NÃO FAZER LUME;
_NÃO COLHER AMOSTRAS DE PLANTAS OU ROCHAS;
_SER AFÁVEL COM OS HABITANTES LOCAIS, ESCLARECENDO QUANTO À ACTIVIDADE EM CURSO E AS MARCAS DO PERCURSO.
CONSELHOS PARA UMA BOA MARCHA
_CALÇADO CÓMODO E JÁ HABITUADO AO PÉ, PREFERENCIALMENTE BOTAS DE MARCHA;
_MEIAS MACIAS E SEM COSTURAS;
_ROUPA ADEQUADA À ÉPOCA E ÀS CONDIÇÕES ATMOSFÉRICAS;
_CHAPÉU OU BONÉ PARA O SOL E IMPERMEÁVEL OU AGASALHO PARA A CHUVA E FRIO;
_UMA PEQUENA MOCHILA COM FARNEL (SANDES, SUMOS, CHOCOLATE, FRUTA E AGUA);
_NÃO VÁ SÓ. LEVE A FAMÍLIA E OS AMIGOS!

GR 30
rcuito do núcleo de Torres Vedras
res Vedras Circuit
Guarnição de 2000 a 2200 homens
Garrisoned by 2000 to 2200 men
Forte munido de 26 bocas de fogo
Fortification provided with 26 cannons
GR 30
GRANDE ROTA
LINHAS DE TORRES